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The biologist is ready to receive new evidence but it is difficult to see how he can trim known facts to suit the opposition. However, science holds the key to the situation. The key is evolution itself, the evolutionary interpretation of history, especially the religious and literary history of the Hebrew people. This rather than biology would quickly become the storm center if it were taught in our high schools. It can not be done at present, but when historical science percolates more thoroughly into the Sunday schools the opposition to the teaching of evolution will dissolve. In the mean time the biologist bears the brunt of opposition because his pupils (or their parents) are not prepared for his message. He has to offer a new interpretation of life, a new basis of ethics, which is in opposition to tradition. He is usually better fitted to discuss and to appreciate the beliefs of the non-scientifically trained man than is the latter to discuss the scientific view, because the biologist has not always been a scientist. The scientist is a trained seeker for truth. His past beliefs, experiences and mental conflicts form a valuable intellectual background. The non-scientifically trained person can not claim a similar appreciation of the scientific view. The biologist must have something of the spirit of a missionary and if necessary that of a martyr.

J. HOWARD BROWN

PRINCETON

TINGITIDAE OR TINGIDAE

IN his discussion of this family name in a recent number of *SCIENCE*, Dr. W. J. Holland has provided us with an excellent review of the philological and nomenclatural facts in the matter, but he fails to mention certain items which have a bearing on the question.

Some years ago in a review of Van Duzee's "Check List of the Hemiptera" (*Psyche*, XXIII: 129, 1916), I stated very briefly my reason for adopting the form *Tingidæ* and it seems necessary to bring forward this argument again to the end that nothing pertinent be overlooked in reaching our decision. In connection with his original proposal of the generic name *Tingis*, Fabricius ("Systema Rhyngoto-

rum," 1803, p. 124) *himself* uses the genitive *Tingis* in a foot-note, and accordingly we must adopt the family form *Tingidæ*, unless we can prove that the author was in error regarding the genitive form of his own generic name. When I first considered the question I took into account the facts which Dr. Holland adduces, and I came to the conclusion that we can not be sure that Fabricius did in fact adopt the Greek word Τίγγις, the name of a city; on the contrary, his use of the genitive *Tingis* shows us that he considered the word his own and indicates what its Latin declension should be.

Until this argument is disposed of I shall consider it necessary to use the form *Tingidæ*, as proposed by Westwood in 1840.

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THE VACUUM TUBE AMPLIFIER IN SCIENTIFIC WORK

THE amplification of sound by means of the triode vacuum tube has now passed on from its application to wired and wireless telephony to a means of aiding those of deficient hearing. Its effectiveness is so great that it promises to be to the partially deaf as great a boon as glasses to those optically defective. The use of the amplifier is sure to expand rapidly in this field, although it will be somewhat impeded by its expense.

The purpose of this note, however, is to call attention to the application or applicability of a sound magnifier in various fields of scientific work and industry:

1. For detecting distant underground operations as in mine rescue or military work.
2. Detecting the approach of a boat, train or automobile before it comes in sight.
3. Detecting the approach of a storm.
4. As a parallel instrument to the binocular prism glasses of the ornithologist, to detect bird songs too far to be heard distinctly or at all. It is particularly useful in detecting the higher notes that do not carry far and in observing nocturnal migration.
5. To aid the hunter in detecting sounds of distant game.
6. In conversation from vessel to vessel or station to station at shouting distance and a little further.